

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 012037

ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 AID-05  
IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
USIE-00 INRE-00 /091 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:BSKIRKPATRICK:IW

APPROVED BY AF:DBBOLEN

AF/C:EMARKS

NEA/AFN:SESCUDERO

EB/AVP:JGORDON

-----190047Z 087210 /63

O 182354Z JAN 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LOME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ACCRA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COTONOU IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGUI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 012037

E.O. 1165;: GDS

TAGS: PINT, DM

SUBJECT: BENIN ATTEMPTED COUP

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PAGE 02 STATE 012037

REF: A) COTONOU 111 (NOTAL) B) 76 LOME 2773 (NOTAL)

1. MORNING OF JAN. 16 COTONOU WAS ATTACKED, ALLEGEDLY BY  
MERCENARIES, WHO ARRIVED AT AIRPORT ABOUT 0800 LOCAL TIME  
AND DEPARTED ABOUT 1100 LOCAL TIME AFTER APPARENT ATTEMPT  
TO OVERTHROW KEREKOU FAILED. EYEWITNESSES SAY PLANE WAS  
SILVER WITH BLUE BAND ON SIDE. OTHERS STATE IT WAS FOUR

ENGINE PROPELLER DRIVEN. TIRES SAID TO HAVE BEEN SHOT  
OUT WHILE ON GROUND. EVENING JAN. 16 FOUR ENGINE PROP  
AIRCRAFT CIRCLED COTONOU FOR FIVE MINUTES IN POSSIBLY RE-  
LATED INCIDENT.

2. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION POST MIGHT BE ABLE TO  
PROVIDE REGARDING AIRCRAFT THAT REPORTEDLY CARRIED ATTACK  
FORCES, AND IN PARTICULAR WHERE IT LANDED AFTER LEAVING  
COTONOU.

3. FOR LOME. IS CONSTELLATION N-273R STILL THERE?  
KISSINGER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, AIRCRAFT, INVASIONS, ALLEGATIONS, MERCENARIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 18-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE012037  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** BSKIRKPATRICK:IW  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770019-0088  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770139/aaaabion.tel  
**Line Count:** 74  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 5efea2d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 COTONOU 111, 76 LOME 2773  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3565305  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BENIN ATTEMPTED COUP CONFIDENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL  
**TAGS:** PINT, DM  
**To:** LOME ACCRA MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/5efea2d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009